

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD-RI  
STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2006**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Joe MarcAurele, William McGowan, Brandon Melton, Deborah Wilson, Martin Trueb

Members Absent: Armeather Gibbs, Lorna Ricci

Others Present: Paul Harden, Jane Nugent, George Nee

Staff Present: Mike Koback, Mavis McGetrick, Marsha McDowell, Nancy Olson

With a quorum present, Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 7:48 AM. The purpose of this meeting was to approve funding for three Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) Grant Proposals.

The International Trade Office of the RIEDC has granted \$341,000 in export training funds to 232 Rhode Island businesses with 480 trainees. The International Trade Office monitors actual export sales that are generated as a result of participation in the training program. As of 2003, 839 business leads have been generated and \$43,575,442 actual sales recorded. This represents a return on investment of \$128 for every dollar invested by the RIEDC. The request is for \$50,000 to fund this program; staff recommendation is to fund as requested.

The second request is from Tiffany & Company a jewelry manufacturer to hire 28 employees at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. Their request is for \$140,000. The RIEDC staff recommendation is to grant them \$84,000. The amount recommended is less than the requested amount due to the fact that the company has received grants in the past, and the average wage per position for this request is lower than those of previous grants.

The third request is from Cornell Corrections of RI, a Detention Center. They will be hiring 56 Correctional Officers at a rate of pay of \$14.22 per hour. Cornell Corrections (CC) operates the Wyatt Detention facility which houses federal detainees for the US Marshals Service and US Customs and Immigrations in Central Falls. Their grant request is for \$102,625; staff recommendation is to fund as requested.

A motion was entered to approve funding as recommended by staff for the three grant proposals.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve, M. Trueb seconded. All approved.

A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the last Strategic Investments Committee Meeting.

**VOTE:** D. Wilson moved to approve, B. Melton seconded. All approved.

The committee will meet on April 24<sup>th</sup> or April 25<sup>th</sup> to approve funding of the Round I Workforce Improvement Grants and the We-Can-2 Summer Youth Employment Program Grants.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell